

Amendments to the Specification

At specification page 1, after the paragraph beginning with "[t]his is a nationalization," insert the following headings:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

At specification page 1, replace the paragraph beginning with "[t]he invention relates to" with the following replacement paragraph:

The invention relates to a lay flat equipment for that
lays flat films or tubular films ~~according to the preamble of claim~~
~~1. Lay flat equipments of this type are known. They are used~~
~~especially in extrusion devices, which extrude tubular films with~~
~~the help of a blown film die. These tubular films are either laid~~
~~flat completely or are sub divided previously into films or~~
~~tubular films and are laid flat subsequently. The lay flat~~
~~equipment usually consists of lay flat plates and/or lay flat~~
~~frames placed against one another in a wedge shaped manner, said~~
~~plates and/or frames being loaded with surfaces, on which the~~
~~film to be laid flat and/or the walls of the tubular film slide~~
~~along. It has been suggested in recent times that rollers be used~~
~~instead of these surfaces. This is illustrated, for example, in~~
~~DE 101 40 577 A1 and EP 795 391 A2. The purpose of the use of the~~

~~rollers is to prevent damages of the freshly extruded films caused by the lay-flat equipments. However, devising measures for further reducing these damages continues to be among the preoccupations of those of skill in the art.~~

At specification page 1, after the paragraph beginning with "[t]he invention relates to," insert the following heading and paragraph:

2. Description of the Prior Art

Lay-flat equipment of this type is known. The equipment is used especially in extrusion devices, which extrude tubular films with the help of a blown film die. These tubular films are either laid flat completely or are sub-divided previously into films or tubular films and are laid flat subsequently. The lay-flat equipment usually consists of lay-flat plates and/or lay-flat frames placed against one another in a wedge-shaped manner, said plates and/or frames being loaded with surfaces, on which the film to be laid flat and/or the walls of the tubular film slide along. It has been suggested in recent times that rollers be used instead of these surfaces. This is illustrated, for example, in DE 101 40 577 A1 and EP 795 391 A2. The purpose of the use of the rollers is to prevent damages of the freshly extruded films caused by the lay-flat equipments. However,

devising measures for further reducing these damages continues to be among the preoccupations of those of skill in the art.

At specification page 1, after the paragraph beginning with "[l]ay-flat equipment," insert the following heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

At specification page 1, replace the paragraph beginning with "[t]herefore the present invention" with the following replacement paragraph:

Therefore the present invention is based on the aforementioned devices and its object is to further prevent the mentioned damages of the film. This object is achieved by the features of the ~~characterizing part of claim 1~~ invention described herein. In the words of the present application, torque can be provided both by a motor, thus an actively torque-generating unit as well as by a brake mechanism.

At specification page 3, after the paragraph beginning with "[a]ddditional embodiments of the present invention," insert the following heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

At specification page 4, after the paragraph beginning with "Fig. 11" (i.e., the brief description of Figure 11), insert the following heading and paragraph:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Further scope of applicability of the present invention will become apparent from the detailed description given hereinafter. However, it should be understood that the detailed description and specific examples, while indicating preferred embodiments of the invention, are given by way of illustration only, since various changes and modifications within the spirit and scope of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from this detailed description.

At specification page 4, replace the paragraph beginning with "[t]he flow of material" with the following replacement paragraph:

The flow of material in the blown film extrusion installation starts at the supply funnel 4 of the ~~extrusion~~ extruder 3 using which plastic raw material—preferably in granulate form—is supplied to the extruder 3. As is generally known, the extruder 3 transforms the raw material (not illustrated) into a semi fluid form, which is supplied to the blown film die 5 by way of the connecting piece 14.

At specification page 6, replace the paragraph beginning with "Fig. 5 illustrates" with the following replacement paragraph:

Fig. 5 illustrates a sketch of another function pair made of a roller 16 and a torque providing means 24. Here also, the driving journals ~~21-[sic: 22]~~ 22 and ~~22-[sic: 23]~~ 23 can be seen. These driving journals are connected to a coupling 25 38, which is simply illustrated as a rectangle almost in the form of a blackbox. This coupling can be a customary frictional coupling or it can represent a gear coupling, or even a hydraulic coupling. As specified in the claims, the characteristic of the coupling 25 38 or of a coupling generally in the sense of the present application is the separability of the torque providing means 24 and the roller 16. It follows from this description that even an equipment according to figure 4 or according to the subsequent figures can be implemented as a coupling, if the corresponding drive disks 21 and 20 or force flow disks 25 and 26 in the subsequent figures can be separated. What naturally stands out when comparing figures 4 and 5 is that in figure 4 the roller 16 and the torque providing means 24 follow one another in the radial direction r of the roller 16. In figure 5 these two elements 16 and 24 are arranged in such a way that they follow one another in the axial direction of the roller 16. The higher installation length in the aforementioned axial direction z of

the roller 16 is naturally among the disadvantages of this arrangement. The advantages, as shown in figures 6 to 9, are that it is usually simpler to provide drive disks or force flow disks, which comprise a large force flow surface having a large opposite overlapping surface.

At specification page 7, replace the paragraph beginning with "[a] similar measure for changing" with the following replacement paragraph:

A similar measure for changing the transferred torque, as in figure 7, is ~~taken~~ illustrated in figure 8. However, figure 8 illustrates several function pairs 33a, 33b made of roller 16 and torque providing means 33a 24a and ~~33b~~ 24b. It is illustrated using the connecting rod 29 that the two torque providing means 24a and 24b are interconnected, so that they can be displaced in common in the radial direction of the rollers 16a, b and c. In this common displacement both the contact surfaces are reduced. Another difference from figure 7 is that the force flow disk 25 b of the function pair 33b also receives force transferred for the operation of the roller 16c. It passes over this torque using the chain 30 to the drive disk ~~21e~~ 25c of the roller 16c. Using the measures, as illustrated in figures 7 and 8, it is also possible to change and/or to reduce by different amounts or even at a different proportion the contact surfaces of different drive disk

pairs 25a, 26a, 25b, 26b by a suitable geometric design of the relations of the different drive disks 25 and 26 with respect to one another, by a suitable arrangement of the same in a lay-flat equipment and by the determination of a suitable axis of motion for the common movement, in case of a common movement from first drive disks to second drive disks. In this manner, it is possible to variably change the maximum torque to be transferred, which is decisive for the start of a slipping movement. The advantages of such a measure are similar to those of providing a different torque for different rollers.

At specification page 9, after the last line, insert the following paragraph:

The invention being thus described, it will be apparent that the same may be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the invention, and all such modifications as would be recognized by one skilled in the art are intended to be included within the scope of the following claims.

At specification page 12 (i.e., the first claims page), replace the heading with the following replacement heading:

~~Claims~~ WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: